There is no material available to infer that MFA has sought to prop up Chinese exports much higher than those of India before imposing quotas on them.

Inadequate power supply affecting powerloom weavers

2925. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether inadequate power supply is affecting the powerloom weavers adversely; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to support the powerloom weavers by better infrastructure and power supply?

"THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Lack of adequate power supply is one of the factors affecting the productivity of the powerloom sector.

(b) The Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS), devised to improve infrastructural facilities at potential textile growth centersjn order to remove bottlenecks in exports, has been modified to *inter-alia* cover new/emerging centers including powerloom clusters. Such Centres/clusters can utilise assistance under the scheme for strengthening infrastructure including power supply.

US move In WTO to block Indian textile exports

2926. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US has moved the WTO to block Indian textile exports;

(b) if so, whether the Washington have claimed that the products have attained export competitiveness and should be ineligible for concessions under the World Trade Organisation Agreement;

(c) whether India's eight-year transition period for gaining export competitiveness and removing all subsidies is due to end in 2003;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government; and

(e) to what extent, Government has moved to the WTO in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (e) The United States had on 31st January 2003 requested WTO's Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures that the export competitiveness of textile and apparel exports from India be determined on the basis of a computation undertaken by the WTO Secretariat in accordance With Article 27.6(b) of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. The products for which the request was made included all textiles and apparel products under Harmonized System Nomenclature chapters 50-59 and 60-63.The computation was requested to be made at both the two and four digit section headings for each of these chapters, it was further requested by the US that export competitiveness calculation be performed for 1996 and each subsequently completed year.

The Government is carefully examining the report and considering various options under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. This matter has not yet been formally discussed in the ASCAM Committee of WTO.

New poworloom work shed scheme

2927. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposal to introduce a new powerloom workshed scheme;

(b) whether a special insurance scheme is also being introduced for powerloom workers; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) The Tenth Plan scheme of the Textile Sector include a central sector scheme namely 'Powerloom Workshed Scheme' for powerloom workers. The proposal includes financial assistance for construction of group worksheds for powerloom units willing to modernize.